

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

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SUBJECT: CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVES MOTION ON PROGRAMMATIC
ACCORD

REF: ROME 11364

SUMMARY. DURING A SERIES OF VOTES ON JULY 15, THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES COMPLETED FINAL ACTION ON THE MOTION OUTLINING THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD REACHED AMONG THE SIX PARTIES OF THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL ARC. AN EXAMINATION OF THE VOTING RESULTS SUGGESTS SOME DISCONTENT WITH THE ACCORD, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A SESSION THAT WENT INTO THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON THE EVENING OF JULY 15-15, COMPLETED ACTION ON THE MOTION, SUBMITTED BY THE GROUP LEADERS OF THE SIX PARTICIPATING PARTIES, WHICH SUMMARIZES THE PROGRAMMATIC
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ACCORD. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT NOW WILL UNDERTAKE TO DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH IMPLEMENTS THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD.

2. FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, THE SIX PARTY MOTION ENCOMPASSING THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF

THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD WAS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN PARTS, WITH A SEPARATE VOTE REQUIRED FOR EACH ONE. AN ANALYSIS OF THE VOITNG PROVIDES SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO THE CURRENT MODD OF THE NATIONS' PARLIAMENTARIANS. THE NUMBER OF NEGATIVE VOTES IN THE SECRET BALLOTING RAN FROM A MINIMUM OF 50 (THE POLITICAL PREAMBLE) TO 110 (THE PORTION PERTAINING TO INCREASED POWERS FOR THE REGIONS), ALTHOUGH THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF NEGATIVE VOTES SHOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY 23 (PDUP AND MSI)-- THE RAICALS DO NOT VOTE BECAUSE THEY ARE PROTESTING THE LOCATIONS OF THEIR SEATS IN THE CHAMBER. IN ADDITON, THERE WERE 79 MEMBERS ABSENT DURING THE VOTING, APPROXIMATELY 70 OF WHOM WERE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC).

3. IN THE VOTING ON THE POLITICAL PREAMBLE, THE DEPUTIES OF THE NEWLY FORMED DEMOCRAZIA NAZIONALE, THE GOUP THAT BROKE AWAY FROM THE EXTREME RIGHT (MSI), VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY. THIS LED SOME COMMENTATORS TO NOTE THAT THE GROUP HAS NOW SUCCEEDED IN INSERTING ITSELF INTO THE SO-CALLED ONSTI-TUTIONAL ARC. THE REPUBLICANS REGISTERED THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PORTION ON THE ECONOMIC MEASURES CONTAINED IN THE PROGRAM BY ABSTAINING, JOINED BY THE DEMOCRAZIA NAZIONALE.

4. PRIOR TO THE VOITNG, THE CHAMBER HEARD A SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD WILL LEAD TO QUOTE A CONSTRUCTIVE NORMALITY END QUOTE ON THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE. ANDROTII STATED TO THE CHAMBER THE COMMITMENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD. ANDREOTTI'S SPEECH, DEFINED AS QUOTE A COMMUNI-CTION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS END QUOTE DEALT AT LENGTH WITH THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ITALIAN POLITICAL LIFE AND ON THE ACCOMPLISH-MENTS OF ONE YEAR OF HIS ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT. IN HIS SUMMING UP, ANDREOTTI NOTED THE NEED TO CONTINUE A FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES, ON CLOSER TIES WITH ITALY'S EC PARTNERS, AND ON CON-TRIBUTING TO THE CAUSE OF DETENTE AND IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE COUNTIRES OF EASTERN EUROPE

5. COMMENT. THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF THE VOTING IS, IN EFFECT, THE DEGREE OF OPPOSITION DISPLAYEDBY SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS BY BREAKING WITH PARTY RANKS ON INDIVIDUAL VOTES OR BY ABSENTING THEMSELVES FROM THE CHAMBER. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY CAME FROM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RANKS, REFLECTING THE UNDERCURRENT OF DISSATISFACTION THAT EXISTS THERE

OVER THE COURSE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROGRAMMATIC
ACCORD TOOK. BY TAKING A STAND AT THE TIME OF THE
VOTING, THE DC PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE REGISTERED THEIR
CONCERN AND SERVED NOTICE TO THEIR LEADERS AND TO
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHERPARTIES, I.E. COMMUNIST AND
SOCIALIST, THAT ATTEMPTS TO PUSH THE DC TO MAKE FURTHER
CONCESSIONS AT A LATER POINT COULD RUN INTO SERIOUS
OBSTACLES.
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